



Congressman Bart Gordon
Representing Tennessee's Sixth District

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Disabled American Veterans Recognize Gordon's Unwavering Support

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Tennessee chapter of the Disabled American Veterans has recognized U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon for his outstanding support of the nation's military veterans.

The non-profit organization, which represents the nation's service-connected disabled veterans and their families, recently presented Gordon with a plaque for his commitment to veterans' issues and causes during a recent ceremony at the nation's Capitol.

"Too often we take for granted the freedoms we enjoy as citizens of the United States of America," said Gordon, dean of the state's congressional delegation and ranking member of the House Science Committee. "We should never forget about the sacrifices that have been made to keep this nation free and safe.

"Part of this nation's deal with our veterans was that we would take care of their health-care needs. But lately the government has been trying to renege on that promise. In fact, the administration's recent budget proposal would double the amount veterans pay for their prescription drugs and charge them a \$250 annual fee just to be in the system.

"The hypocritical message we give our military veterans is just plain wrong. We ask them to fight our wars and tell them a grateful nation will take care of them. Then when we use them up, we forget about the promises we made to them. That's not a good recruiting message for our military."



Congressman Gordon, left, receives an award for his work in Congress from John Simmons of the Tennessee chapter of the Disabled American Veterans.

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Rep. Gordon

According to next year's budget proposal from the White House, many veterans would pay an annual \$250 fee to be in the Department of Veterans Affairs health-care system. And they would pay \$15 instead of \$7 for a month's supply of their prescription drugs.

"This isn't the first time we've seen these proposals," Gordon said. "I've fought them before, and I will fight them again."

Gordon is no stranger to fighting ill-conceived proposals by the VA. He convinced VA officials in Washington to leave in place most medical-care services at the Alvin C. York VA Medical Center in Murfreesboro after they proposed moving them to the Nashville VA hospital.

"Veterans deserve prompt, quality medical care," he said. "Having a VA facility closer to some of our rural communities in Middle Tennessee has been a blessing for our veterans. Being near family in a time of sickness is important and can speed up the healing process.

"We are spending billions of dollars to rebuild Iraq. Why can't we set aside a few more dollars to properly care for our veterans? Putting more resources into the VA system to properly care for our veterans as promised should be a priority for this country. Our veterans sacrificed much to protect our nation. We should not break the promises made to them."

How does your garden grow?

Want some Tennessee gardening tips? If so, visit the University of Tennessee Extension Agency's home gardening Web page.

This Web site has plenty of good tips to help you grow a better garden and a greener lawn. Tips cover the whole gamut of gardening, including proper maintenance and fertilizing techniques.



Protecting cell phones against telemarketers

New 411 cell phone directory will have customer protections

Rumors claiming that your cell phone number will be released to telemarketers if you do not sign up for the National Do-Not-Call list are just that: rumors.

A new 4-11 directory being created by cell phone companies will only include customers who specifically ask to be in it.

The companies will not share customers' numbers with telemarketers. But if you are concerned, go ahead and sign up for the Do-Not-Call list. It is a legitimate Web site.

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